

Waltham Land Trust

is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving our community's natural resources for the future through education, open space acquisition and protection.



JOURNAL FALL 2007

Waltham Land Trust Earns Challenge Grant!

Kate Buttolph

In April of this year, the Waltham Land Trust Board of Directors received a challenge grant from the CDQ Charitable Trust to support the Land Trust's part-time staff position. The CDQ foundation offered to match funds raised by the board dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000 per board member, provided all board members participated.

I am very pleased to report that the Board of Directors more than rose to the challenge. By June 30th, all 14 of us had raised the required minimum of \$500 each and many had gone well beyond that. Together with the match, we raised a total of \$22,110! Of course, we could not have done so without the generous support of Land Trust members, friends and families. They all contributed to the challenge because they share our hopes for preserving Waltham's remaining green spaces and they support our efforts to achieve that preservation goal.

In addition to our preservation goal, we were also particularly inspired by the nature of this challenge, which forced us (in a goodhearted way) to work as a team. To earn the matching funds, we had to have 100 percent board participation. If anyone failed to raise the minimum of \$500, we would all fail, so no one gave up!

The challenge criteria and our well-defined mission helped us overcome our reluctance to ask anyone for money. Said one participant, "I was always uncomfortable asking for money, but with a goal to meet, I discovered that some of the people I asked were more than happy to give and to join the Land Trust. It also solved a problem for my family as they never know what to give me for my birthday. I asked for a donation!"

Another Board member confessed, "I hate to ask people for money, even when it's for a project as important as the Land Trust, but the double-or-nothing challenge helped me focus on fundraising for a change."

I, too, found that the match and the deadline pushed me to pick up the telephone and ask. When you believe as strongly as we do that parks and wilderness are

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Shady's Pond Trail Work Underway

Marc Rudnick

This year, the Waltham Land Trust launched its Chester Brook Corridor Project, aimed at making the segment of the Western Greenway along Chester Brook accessible to the public. A major part of this campaign includes creating a trail network connecting the Northeast Elementary School to the Storer Conservation Area, a 2½-mile walk in the woods.

Key to this project was the city's acquisition of 34 acres of woodlands from Our Lady's Parish to create the Shady's Pond Conservation Area. The Waltham Land Trust had lobbied since its inception for this parcel's protection, and is now working with the City on the Greenway route across this land and on the Northeast School-to-Storer trail.

Over the last six months, WLT Land Committee members have been out assessing potential routes and the work that would be needed to create public access trails. The terrain, existing trails and alternate routes were mapped with the help of a GPS device, and a plan emerged.

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Earth Day 2007 Wrap-Up

Inge Uhler

April 22, 2007, was a day like no other. The Waltham Land Trust joined with the city and a dozen non-profit organizations to produce an Earth Day celebration that had local roots. We succeeded in introducing hundreds of residents to natural resources that they had not visited earlier. We hope that they continue to enjoy the richness of our local green environment.



Cooperation was the key. In the photo, Steve Fogg, host of the WCAC show "It's Up to You," drew out the contributions of several participants. John Smith, manager of the Patriots' Trail Girl Scout Activity Center, opened the historical and natural resources of Cedar Hill to many first-time visitors. Stephen Rourke, Island Association activist and Waltham Land Trust Director, exemplifies passion for protection of the environment. Nadene Stein, Northeast School principal, brought the message of health education of children to the spotlight and Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy tested our ideas until they merited her encouragement and support.

Many city departments helped in ways great and small. The public library gathered a special Earth Day collection in the children's department. They also made the exhibit space on the ground floor available for the month of April. The Consolidated Public Works Department, Transportation Department, Recreation Department, Recycling Department, High School Science Club and the Community Police Department's Cadets were crucial.

Major sponsors of Earth Day 2007 include Brandeis University, Genzyme, the 128 Business Council and an anonymous benefactor.

Credit also goes to volunteers from the PTA, the RTN Credit Union and the Climate Action Task Force

of the First Parish Church. Valued help also came from John J. Crookes, Trolley Driver Roy Venini, Bentley College, Duffy Brothers Associates, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society of Central New England, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Russo's, Trader Joe's, and Jeff Dukes of the Boston Area Climate Experiment.

There were countless individual volunteers who gave their time and effort before, during, and after Earth Day. Many were members of the twelve nonprofits that initiated this new event, but others just rose to the challenge when help was called for.

An extra burden was assumed by the Charles River Watershed Association, The Patriots' Trail Council, the Hardy Pond Association, The Waltham Land Trust, and Waltham Farmers' Market. These organizations gave a lot of effort to bring this program to the people of Waltham and they contributed start-up funds as well as staff time.

Somehow it all came together in one wonderful day that perhaps offered too much all at once. The size of both sites and the plethora of activities merited closer inspection and appreciation. To continue the spirit of Earth Day, several possibilities are being explored to conduct follow-up programs and activities.

Waltham High School Environmental Groups Participate in Earth Day

Clair Weatherby

At the Earth Day celebration this year in Waltham, the Great Hall of the Cedar Hill Girl Scout Camp was bustling with community groups from the area that set up displays in support of various environmental causes. Two of these groups were the Waltham High School Environmental Club and the WHS Envirothon Team. The Environmental Club was started by Adrien Tofighi, a member of the class of 2007. This past year, Tofighi decided to start the group to help raise awareness about environmental issues in Waltham and to involve students in finding ways to get involved in the community to help solve these issues. Next year, club members hope to be more active in the school and the community, making use of the money raised at Earth Day.

The Envirothon Team was started many years ago by WHS chemistry teacher Sonya Knight, and three years ago the team was revived by then-sophomores Jackie Carlozzi and Pearl Lung. Each year, the team competes in the Massachusetts Envirothon, where they are tested on their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soil

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March Duck Walk A Big Hit

Elisabeth Carter

Do you know the difference between a black duck and a female mallard? You would if you had joined the Waltham Land Trust's Second Annual Duck Walk on March 11!

Led by founding board member Marc Rudnick, a group of some 25 members and friends ventured out on the slightly icy bike path along the Charles River behind Shaw's from the Mary Early footbridge to the Elm Street bridge. The walk lasted about two hours, and participants encountered a total of 23 species of birds and, in true environmental/multitasking spirit, collected three bags of litter. Founding board member Marie Daly also assisted in the walk by pointing out natural and historic features.

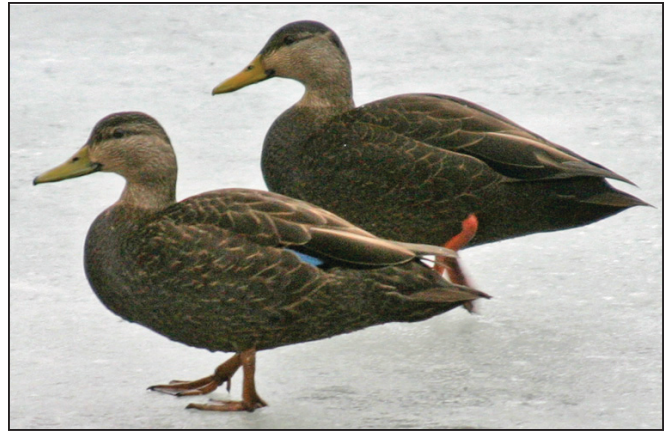
Marc told the group that he grew up in New York City, "where there was only one kind of duck: the Duck duck." (That would be the common Mallard, with which we are all familiar, whose males have bright green heads.) These days, however, together with wife Sally Wetzler, Marc has made great strides in his bird identification. He has traveled to some 30 countries on five continents with birding books and binoculars since those early days in the Big Apple, and he's seen nearly a thousand different types of birds. In just his own Hardy Pond back yard, his life list of identified birds reached 140 this year.

In this part of the country, birding is best from March through May. That's when we can see not only the local species but also many that travel through

High School Earth Day *from page 2*

and wildlife. Each group also presents a research project that has helped make its town better in some way or that raises awareness about an environmental issue. Carlozzi, who just graduated from Waltham High, says, "...the goal [of the team] was always to raise awareness and help the citizens be informed. It's our city and it's our responsibility to preserve and protect it."

At Earth Day, the students of the Environmental Club sold a variety of baked goods to raise money that will help fund activities and events being planned for the coming school year. The Envirothon Team set up environmentally themed games for the many kids who attended Earth Day. The group created a "Wheel of Fortune"-style game with questions focused on energy conservation, as well as a Jeopardy game that quizzed kids on their knowledge of the environment. These fun games were all part of the team's overall goal of raising awareness about environmental issues in the community.



American black ducks (above), mallards (below)



seasonally. On this brisk, late winter day, Marc and Sally helped the group of us mostly novice birders from Waltham and nearby towns to "see" and identify a **common merganser**, **green-wing teal**, a cute little **American coot**, **ring-neck ducks** and a very shy **great blue heron**. We were also treated to the rather bizarre vision of a bunch of **Canada Geese** doing somersaults in the water. . . . Many of the participants brought binoculars, and Sally brought along her birding telescope as well, so we all had a chance to get a good close-up view of the water birds.

There were, of course, many non-water birds, as we were walking in an area that combined a number of environmental habitats—woods, urban, and river. Thus we spied shimmering **grackles**, **red-winged blackbirds**, **pigeons** ("rock doves"), **mourning doves**, **gulls**, **starlings**, **blue jays**, **robins** (so early!) and **house sparrows**, a **Carolina wren** and a **house wren**. As folks began to splinter off into smaller groups toward the end of the walk, some spied a **sharp-shinned hawk**, and others a **chickadee**, a **mockingbird**, and some **crows**.

Judging by the large crowd that showed up, and the many birds spotted, the Duck Walk was one of our most popular activities so far this year. It was Marc's first time to lead it, and he promises to lead more in the future.

Oh, and the difference between the female mallard and the similar looking black duck? Mallards have white in the tail area; black ducks don't.

Challenge Grant from page 1

critical places within the urban area that is the City of Waltham, it is easy to share that conviction with others and suggest that they support the Land Trust.

The challenge grant funds will enable the Land Trust to continue having a Program Manager. The Land Trust hired its first Program Manager, Karen Patterson, in 2005, with the help of an initial grant from the CDQ as well. This position has become crucial to the functioning of the Land Trust. Since hiring a staff person, the Land Trust has greatly expanded its work and increased awareness about open space issues in Waltham. Specifically, we have:

- Increased the number of walks, talks and educational programs offered to Waltham residents and visitors to the City.
- Reached out to other organizations such as the Waltham Tourism Council, Friends of Prospect Park, realtors, and neighboring towns to promote the wonderful open space resources within Waltham.
- Organized an Earth Day celebration that brought nearly 500 people out to learn more about open space and environmental protection in Waltham.
- Maintained and created trails on various open spaces in Waltham.
- Supported the effort to pass the Community Preservation Act, a dedicated source of funding for use by the City of Waltham in preserving land and historic structures.
- Purchased a piece of land on Hardy Pond to provide a public spot for bird watching, picnicking or launching a canoe.

All of these efforts improve the quality of life in Waltham and make it a better place to live, work and visit. We look forward to continuing to serve the community in the coming year, together with the support of our Program Manager! Thank you, CDQ Charitable Trust, and all our supporters who rose to the challenge!

Shady's Pond from page 1

An established trail network exists at the Northeast School, which is situated in a 23-acre woods separated from Shady's Pond Conservation Area by a centuries-old stone wall. On the Shady's side of the wall, the paths have become overgrown, as old overland routes have been made obsolete by fences and development. A trail from the school to the pond at Shady's Pond was chosen as the first leg of the Chester Brook Corridor Project.

In June, dedicated bands of WLT members hit the trails with rakes, shovels, picks and trash bags, braving mosquitoes and poison ivy to begin the actual trail work. Volunteers blocked off side trails, cleared the trail beds of obstructions, and placed temporary markers to guide the work along. Working with Friends of the Western Greenway trail-building expert Mike Tabazynski, several old trail segments were re-routed to avoid sensitive wetlands and fern beds. One old path goes down a steep hillside that would become eroded under regular use; plans are underway to re-route this segment. On June 30th, a final push got the volunteers all the way to Shady's Pond, a shallow pool, deep in the woods, oddly divided from the abutting marsh by another old stone wall. Here the Shady's Pond trail will meet the Western Greenway trail for the continued trip down the Chester Brook Corridor to Storer. Turning north on the Greenway Trail would bring a hiker out to Trapelo Road and on to Lot 1 and the Beaver Brook North Reservation.

In the words of Wendell Berry, poet, farmer, and conservationist, "What we do not love, we will not save." I came to love walking and biking in the Shady's Pond woods some 25 years ago, when it was the center of a huge, undeveloped swath of green in North Waltham. With the success of WLT's trail building project here, hopefully many will come to love this land. Only then can we sustain the demand for conservation that influenced the City to acquire this parcel, and that can protect this and the other elements of the Western Greenway for all time.



Upcoming Events

Please check www.walthamlandtrust.org for changes to event dates and times. For more information, contact the Land Trust at info@walthamlandtrust.org or 781.893.3355.

Sunday, September 16, 2–4 p.m. A Visit with Cornelia Warren.

Learn about Cornelia Warren and her property at Cedar Hill. Meet at the Patriots' Trail Girl Scouts Cedar Hill Campus Conference Room, 265 Beaver Street, Waltham.

Saturday, September 22, 12:30 p.m. A Stroll Through a Historic Garden Cemetery.

Enjoy a stroll along the banks of the Charles River Lakes District and into Mount Feake Cemetery. Meet on Charles River Road, opposite the Charlesbank Apartments. Contact Diana Young at (781) 893-3355 for more info or email info@walthamlandtrust.org.

Sunday, September 23, 12–4 p.m. Healthy Waltham Walks in the Woods

Join us for the Third Annual Waltham Walks event sponsored by Healthy Waltham. Guided walks on the path that start at Elsie Turner Field will leave at 1 and 2:30 p.m., or you can follow the marked trail on your own. Bring a picnic lunch and water and enjoy the day! Transportation between Waltham Common and Elsie Turner Field will be available on a regular schedule that day only. Parking and bathroom facilities will also be available. Please visit www.healthy-waltham.org for details closer to the date. For more information, contact Judy Fallows at jfallows@healthy-waltham.org or call (781) 314-3031.

Save the Date! Wednesday, October 17, 7 p.m. Waltham Land Trust Annual Meeting. Waltham Public Library lecture hall, 735 Main Street. Get important updates at www.walthamlandtrust.org.

Love Your Mother! Tips for Protecting the Earth

Elisabeth Carter

As Waltham Land Trust members, naturally we care about the environment. How can we contribute as individuals to the protection and preservation of our natural world? There are so many ways! Here are a few ideas to get started.

According to the Center for a New American Dream (newdream.org), “food in the U.S. typically travels more than 1,500 miles,” generating up to 17 times the carbon emissions of locally grown food. (Not to mention all those imported Chilean fruits and vegetables!) By supporting locally produced food, such as at farmers’ markets and local bakeries, you support businesses that are less taxing on the environment.

Those compact fluorescent bulbs (CFBs) that everyone has been raving about (we had some for sale at our Earth Day event) really do make a difference. One gift shop owner I spoke with recently said when he switched to CFBs in his display lamps, his electricity bill was cut in half. And lamps were not even his main product! You can reduce your own bills by up to 75 percent. And what if every American replaced only one incandescent bulb in their house with a CFB? We would reduce greenhouse emissions by the equivalent of about 800,000 cars! (See Salt Lake City Green website, www.slcgreen.com.)

A word of caution: Like all fluorescent bulbs, these little compacts contain mercury, which is hazardous to the environment. This is why *all fluorescents must be discarded as hazardous waste*, and NOT in your regular trash. Fortunately the bulbs last years longer than incandescents do, but eventually you *will* need to replace burnt-out bulbs. Discard these as you would broken thermometers, oil, and other household chemicals—with other hazardous waste.

Waltham sponsors eight FREE hazardous waste drop-off days a year at Minuteman Hazardous Products Facility in Lexington. Save up your hazardous products (list available from the recycling department’s link at www.city.waltham.ma.us) and make a trip once a year. (The city pays by the carload, so if you have only a few items, pool them with a neighbor.)

Speaking of waste disposal, did you know that the storm drains in your street do not lead to waste treatment plants, but to *the river*? So whatever you dump in them also goes to the river. Please protect our river and streams; don’t discard oil, paints, cigarettes or other trash down these drains.

Recycling, of course, is an easy way to protect the environment. Set up a recycling area in your home with a place for paper, for bottles and cans, for returnables, plastic bags, and hazardous waste. A corner of a closet or garage is enough room. Did you know that cardboard milk cartons can be recycled with the bottles

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Thanks to Our Generous FY07 Donors

Over \$1,000

American Hiking Society; Boston Foundation; CDQ Trust; Margaritas; Norcross Wildlife Foundation; Uhler, Inge; Young, Diana;

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Farewell and Good Luck to Karen. . .



For over two years, Karen Patterson Greene has served indefatigably as the Land Trust's first Program Manager. She has been the glue holding together our diverse mix of preservation projects, public events, and fundraising efforts. Among her many achievements Karen

has helped us significantly increase our membership, acquire the Smith Point conservation parcel, begin work on the Western Greenway and Chester Brook footpaths, organize many public events, including this spring's Waltham Earth Day, and complete studies of future projects, including the Great Pond Conservation Area and the Fernald Development Center. Most recently, Karen organized the Land Trust's very successful challenge grant fundraiser. Now she is spreading her wings and moving on to organize a statewide recycling campaign for the Massachusetts Recycling Coalition. We will miss her capable, tactful, and cheerful presence at many late-evening planning meetings and outdoor

events. But she has already volunteered to continue as an active Land Trust member and participant in the Land Committee. Our heartfelt thanks and good luck to Karen in her new position!

. . . And Welcome to Jennifer

Long-time Land Trust member and Waltham activist Jennifer Rose has agreed to jump in temporarily as our Program Manager while we search for a candidate to succeed Karen. Jennifer has vast experience in coordinating non-profit organizations. She is already knee-deep in membership outreach, event-planning, fund-raising, and the myriad of other tasks that keep the Land Trust running. Jennifer is also helping us to organize the upcoming Green Space Jazz Jam. She will be with us at least through the annual meeting this fall. Please welcome Jennifer to the Land Trust office!

We regret to inform you that two valued WLT members have died: **IdaMae DeBuono**, who for years helped with phone call notices to members, and **Mark Naiman** of Lincoln, an early member.



Love Your Mother from page 5

and cans? Also, at grocery stores with bottle return machines, you'll find a bin where you can recycle plastic bags. I collect all bits of plastic bags, including wrappers, and drop them off for recycling when I return my cans.

Savings in your pocket are an added bonus of good environmentally aware habits and practices, but keep in mind that the goal is *protecting and preserving the environment*, not just your finances. So when traveling or on vacation, keep up the good works! Conserve electricity, water, gas, and recycle wherever you go, even though you might be saving someone else the money.

Elisabeth Carter can be reached at studiowriting@gmail.com.

WLT Membership Application

Yes, I want to help preserve open space in Waltham and create a network of trails and greenspace for recreation and wildlife protection!

I wish to ☐ join ☐ renew

- ☐ Basic: \$25 for one year
- ☐ Contributing: \$50
- ☐ Sustaining: \$100
- ☐ Lifetime: \$1,000 for your lifetime
- ☐ Living Lightly (student, senior, other): \$15 one year
- ☐ I wish to make an additional donation of \$_____
- ☐ I am interested in volunteering for:
 - ☐ trail stewardship ☐ fundraising ☐ newsletter
 - ☐ events & publicity ☐ website ☐ other
- ☐ I have skills in: _____

Name(s) _____

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Please mail your check and form to:

Waltham Land Trust

P.O. Box 541120

Waltham, MA 02454-1120

Visit walthamlandtrust.org to learn more or join online at walthamlandtrust.org/donate.

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An electronic file (pdf) of this newsletter is available on our web site, <www.walthamlandtrust.org>.

Officers: Joris Naiman (President), David Kehs (Vice President), Marie Daly (Clerk), Diana Young (Treasurer)

Directors: Katherine Buttolph, George Darcy III, Suzanna King, Daniel Melnechuk, Stephen Rourke, Marc Rudnick, Michael Squillante, Nadene Stein, Lesya Struz, Inge Uhler.

Waltham Land Trust's Mission

We are a group of Waltham citizens who want to save open space in our city. Our mission is to acquire, preserve or restore land in a way that

- ♦ balances conservation and access,
- ♦ maximizes the natural value of land,
- ♦ reduces habitat fragmentation, and
- ♦ permanently protects and conserves natural resources;

So that

- ♦ public appreciation of natural resources grows,
- ♦ native habitat is preserved and restored, environmental quality of life is improved (air, water, noise and light pollution are reduced),
- ♦ biodiversity is increased, and
- ♦ a legacy of conservation is perpetuated in Waltham.

Please send any comments to the return address below, or email to <memberlink@walthamlandtrust.org>.

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